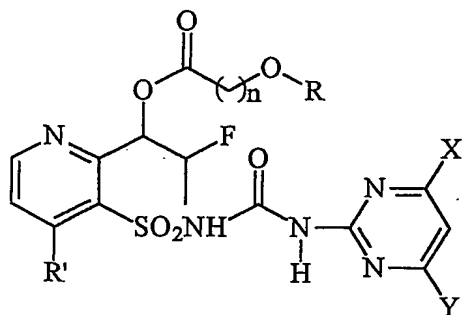


**Claims:**

1. A pyridine sulfonyl urea derivative of the following formula (1):



(1)

in which

n denotes an integer of from 1 to 3,

R represents H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R' represents H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-haloalkyl, halogen, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkoxy, and

X and Y independently of one another represent C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-haloalkoxy, or halogen, salts or stereochemical isomers thereof.

2. The derivative of claim 1 wherein n denotes an integer of 1 or 2, R represents H or methyl, R' represents H, halogen or methyl, and X and Y each represents methoxy.

3. The derivative of claim 1 wherein n denotes an integer of 1 or 2, R represents methyl, R' represents H, Cl, Br or methyl, and X and Y each represents methoxy.

4. The derivative of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

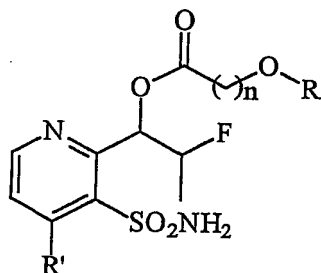
N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-2-(2-fluoro-1-methoxy acetoxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide;

N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-2-(2-fluoro-1-hydroxy acetoxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide;

N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-2-(2-fluoro-1-(3-hydroxy

propion)oxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide;  
 N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-2-(2-fluoro-1-(3-  
 methoxypropion)oxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide;  
 N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-4-methyl-2-(2-fluoro-1-  
 5 methoxyacetoxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide;  
 N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-4-chloro-2-(2-fluoro-1-  
 methoxyacetoxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide; and  
 N-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-4-bromo-2-(2-fluoro-1-  
 10 methoxyacetoxy-n-propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide.

5. The derivative of claim 1 which is present in the stereoisomeric form of erythro.
6. A compound of the following formula (6):



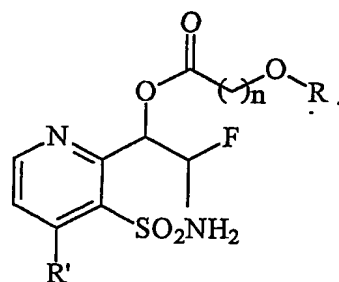
15 in which

n, R and R' are defined as in claim 1.

7. The compound of claim 6 which is 2-(2-fluoro-1-methoxyacetoxy-n-  
 20 propyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide.

8. A process for preparing the compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1  
 characterized in that a compound of the following formula (6):

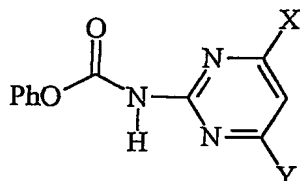
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(6)

in which

n, R and R' are defined as in claim 1, is reacted in a solvent optionally in the presence of a base with a compound of the following formula (7):



(7)

in which

X and Y are defined as in claim 1.

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9. The process of claim 8 wherein the base is triethylamine, hexamethylenetetramine, pyridine, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene (DBU) or 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane (DABCO).

15 10.

A herbicidal composition for controlling weeds which comprises as an active ingredient the compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1 together with carriers.

11. The composition of claim 10 which comprises the compound of formula (1) wherein n denotes an integer of 1 or 2, R represents H or methyl, R' represents H, halogen or methyl, and X and Y each represents methoxy.

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12. Method to use of the compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1 for controlling weeds against rice or wheat in paddy field or upland field condition.